

One of the Big Ones put out by Randolph Smyth, 249 First Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K1S 2G5 Canada, who charges one-half cent per page plus postage, to be increased to one cent per two-sided page plus postage when I get ditto facilities at the end of the summer, as a subscription; and an additional \$3. gamefee per player of regular Diplomacy, although positions are currently open only to those not playing a game within these pages; except for NGC members who are free to play postal chess, Scrabble, several wargames, and of course Diplomacy herein if they can find the necessary opponents and pay gamefees dependent on the game in question. Long enough?

Here I am, just back from Calgary. Don't expect any miracles this issue as I've just gone through the second time zone shuffle in less than a week: and I don't even like to travel much at all. The show will go on...and at least events of the past week have provided plenty of spacefiller.

While away, I naturally met those *enfants terribles* of western Canada, John Leeder and Blair Cusack. Arriving late Monday evening (actually it was just after 10:00 local time that I got settled, but post-midnight as far as I was concerned), I couldn't even contact either of them until Tuesday afternoon when John finally answered his phone. Things then moved fast, and that evening I found myself playing *Gesta Dominorum* or some such. In a four-player scenario, I drew some barbarians in the south of England---maybe Sussex. I was hammered from square one by John from the North and Blair by sea from the South. Luckily they began fighting over the spoils, so I hung on and made a modest comeback by the end of the game: it wouldn't have looked good to eliminate a guest. By that time it appeared that everyone was too cautious to let anyone else get a winning advantage, so we ended things at 1:30 a.m.: but if the game had continued I was still in the prime position for eventual wipeout.

Thursday John revealed the darkest secrets of the Runestone operation. Nothing too exciting, but I figured out how masters worked and how much things cost (see new sub fees above: since I will be printing both sides, there should be no change in cost per information bit). Later I was introduced to "true" folk music, we dined, and John showed me the sights (?) of Calgary. I still maintain that any city of half a million without a continuous program in the performing arts (read theatre, although I would have settled for opera or even ballet by Thursday night) is culturally decerebrate. Even the TV offerings hit a new low in my opinion, though I was stuck with them: no wonder so many Calgarians play Diplomacy! John should be coming to Ontario for the middle of August. Needs the break, I guess.

John also informed me on Thursday that someone had come out with another fake Runestone, according to Laurence Gillespie (did he phone from the east coast just to spread the news??!), mailed the very day I left for Calgary. Flew all the way home yesterday in some anticipation, only to find that I still haven't got one. This is a rip---I never get fake issues for some reason---the only one I remember was a Janus a long time ago. This time I got smart, though, as Ralph Morton got a copy and I've just popped over to his place. I'm therefore in a position to comment with this issue.

First of all, the fake looks real on the surface: considerable effort



has been made to duplicate John's format. There are funny bits on every page, though. While the address has been hand written, Ralph's sample is nothing like John's normal script, and like nobody else's I know. In fact it looks feminine: sorry if I'm insulting anyone. In this male-dominated hobby it must have been the female acquaintance of one of the perpetrators: dead end.

I say perpetrators for a reason. Writing styles in different sections are diverse, and at times the flow is disjointed. I believe that no one person could have put together the whole package. This puts a high level of suspicion on a Toronto group unless the material was mailed all over Canada, by conspirators who have only met postally. In addition, it's the Toronto gang which is most thoroughly taken apart in the "editorial" and elsewhere, although this is perhaps natural in any case. Certainly the interest and publishing talent of Canadian postal Diplomacy is concentrated in the Toronto area.

The zine's postmark is Calgary, though---very good. Perhaps just coincidence, but I suspect an attempt to implicate me since I was there last week. Everyone at TorontoCon and all FSF subscribers could have known that, so it doesn't cut the field down significantly. Unluckily (since I'd otherwise be rather keen to take some of the credit, at least for the mailing) the postmark is Monday, and I didn't even touch down in Calgary until later that evening. Someone has a friend in the city: not difficult, but Blair is as good a suspect as any if you reject John himself (I have).

On page one the masthead is done in the old style: done some time ago, with a flimsy excuse for the difference underneath. The fake was a long time in the making, then. Below, one of the most glaring omissions: details of Flintlock have been avoided with a "game end" and no writeup. Considering the efforts for realism that went into other areas, scratch the "Huntsville Mains": none of the perpetrators was familiar with the variant.

The writeup of the other games was virtually flawless: someone is a GM, or should be. A ditto duplicator was used, typing is excellent, and the face is similar to John's---but this is so common that anyone could have got hold of a suitable machine given the time span we're looking at. Similarly the Odds & Ends section draws and quarters most Canadian publishers with equal gusto, and all the hard information can be found in recent Runestones. A few hints, but nothing concrete.

I suppose I should spend some time dissecting my own (?) letter. The hedging and other turns of phrase, tuned down about 90%, are almost recognizable...but much more characteristic of my negotiating style than of what normally surfaces in FSF. My own opinion is that the author has had a fair amount of exposure to me as a player. On the other hand, the style of "Conrad's" and even "Cal's" letters and "John's" editorial would have fooled me if the content had been serious. Do I really write like that, then?

Those more experienced in tracking down fake-perpetrators will have more success in narrowing down the field further: of course it's likely that the authors of such a well-made issue will confess quickly without a third degree. Why have I bothered listing the hard evidence, then? My choice for mastermind is Cal White, with writing help in Toronto and a mailing source in Blair Cusack. Totally unsubstantiated and probably untrue.

Longest introduction ever. The games are in the customary state of disarray, particularly:

1976-CD: STOPPING THE PRESSES.

Whoa. Reverse. Back up. Three of the players thought that replaying Fall 1907 would be the fairest solution, and one hasn't replied to my letter. John Leeder agrees with the majority view: there was a similar case in Runestone some time ago which sparked considerable debate. I, too, have

"come around" since Elliott pointed out that he did leave a phone number with me to be called collect in an NOR situation. It was some time ago (before his move to El Taco) and three weeks ago I assumed (erroneously) that it was no longer good. I might have remained rather hardhearted in my own mind (or heart) about his failure to contact me otherwise, but cannot ignore that the final error was entirely mine.

One player objected rather strenuously to a replay of the season. First of all, I think this arose partially from a misunderstanding of procedures. All players are once again asked to submit orders for Fall 1906, which may be a change from their previous set. If no changes are received the original orders stand. Elliott therefore has no significant advantage in outguessing anyone else. If the original orders were the only logical ones, he could have been expected to see them beforehand anyhow; while to the extent that other strategies are possible, go to it---it's a whole new ball game.

Secondly and more seriously there's the problem of future abuses. John suggested some policy changes to cover the situation which amount to new houserules. Effective immediately: (1) the GM will not phone any players in the event of NMR; I hate the phone anyhow. This has benefitted local players who have let the submission of orders slide without negative feedback in the form of collect phone charges. If you call me, orders will still be accepted by me over the phone, but as you may know I'm tough to catch and nobody else here has a clue. (2) As stated last issue, the players are responsible for making inquiries if the zine is, say, a week behind schedule, unless there's an official postal strike. I will no longer be responsible for the effects of any unassessable mail foulups. Players in all games, present and future, please take note. I'll be coming out with a complete third edition of houserules this Fall once I settle into a new system; in the meantime tack the above onto the previous set.

Hope this is satisfactory to the CD players: it appears to be the best compromise, and is my final decision on the matter. Feel free to appeal to the Ombudsman if you don't like it, but he got me started on the opinion, so I wish you luck! Sorry for all the inconvenience, everyone; Fall 1907 orders, revised, are due from all July 15, 1977.

1976-CK, Fall 1905: TURKS DOZE OFF AGAIN, RUSSIANS STILL ALIVE!
France (Julian Presber): A Mar-Bur, A Par-Pic, A Gas S A Mar-Bur, F Bel-Nth,

F Edi S F Bel-Nth, F Mid-Eng, F Eng-Lon, A Yor S F Eng-Lon.

Germany (Robert Acheson): A Sil-War, A Mos S A Sil-War, F Kie-Hel, A Mun-Run, A Ruh-Bel, F Hol S A Ruh-Bel, F Nwy-Nwg, A Swe-Nwy, F Lon-Eng/d/.

Italy (David Mueth): A Gal S A Bud, A Tri S A Bud, F Tun-Wes, F Tyr-Lyo, F Ion H, A Ven-Pie.

Russia (Doug Ronson): A Gal retreats -War; A War-Mos, A Sev-Rum.

Turkey (James Hymas): NMR: A's Bul, Arm, Rum, Ser, Gre, F's Bla, Aeg all hold.

The German F Lon may retreat -Wal or OTB.

Centers/Builds:

F (8): Home, Por, Spa, Edi, Lvp, Lon; Lon/Bel, even.

G (10): Home, Hol, Bel, Den, Swe, Nwy, StP, War; Bel, War/Lon, build one.

I (7): Home, Tun, Tri, Vie, Bud; -/-, even.

R (2): Mos, Sev; la/War, even.

T (7): Home, Bul, Gre, Ser, Rum; -/-, even.

There's something wrong if we can't get Winter and Spring in by July 22, isn't there? I trust that there will be more of a shakeup next year....

Diving into the standby pile, I come up with Trevor Baillie for Turkey: 4598 Decarie, #16, Montreal, P.Q. H3X 2H5.

Port Radium-Winnipeg: It was inevitable!

1976-CR, Fall 1904: EQUALLY FIERCE BATTLE GIVES MANY MORE STANDOFFS THAN CK!
England (Lyle Marshall): F Nat H, F Lon-Wal, A Lvp S F Lon-Wal, A Bel S
German A Ruh-Bur.

France (Doug Hayward): A Wal-Lon, F Eng S A Wal-Lon, F Mid-Por, A Par-Gas,
A Pic-Par.

Germany (Norman Weinstock): F Bot H, F Den-Hel, A Ruh-Bur, A Mun S A Ruh-Bur,
A Bur-Gas, A Spa S A Bur-Gas, A Boh S Russian A Gal/moving/.

Italy (Trevor Baillie): A Ven S A Tyo, A Tyo S A Vie, A Gre H, A Tri S A Vie,
A Vie S Turkish A Bud-Gal/nso/, F Ion S A Gre.

Russia (Robert Acheson): A Mos-Sev, A Gal-Rum, A Ukr S A Gal-Rum.

Turkey (Len Howard): A Sev H, F Bla S A Sev, A Rum-Gal, A Bud S A Rum-Gal,
A Ser S A Bud, F Aeg-Bul(sc).

Centers/Builds:

A (0): 2a/Vie, Bud; eliminated. R.I.P.

E (5): Edi, Lon, Nwy, Bel, Lvp; Lvp/-, build one.

F (3): Bre, Par, Por; -/Spa, Lvp, remove two.

G (8): Home, Den, Hol, Swe, Mar, Spa; Spa/-, build one.

I (7): Home, Tun, Gre, Tri, Vie; Vie/-, build one.

R (3): StP, Mos, War; -/-, even.

T (8): Home, Sev, Rum, Bul, Ser, Bud; Bud/-, build one.

Winter for sure, Spring with luck, on July 22, 1977, please.

Paris-London: I still don't see the German doing anything to deserve such
support from you.

1976-CZ, Winter 1904: I TELL YOU, THIS GAME IS JINXED AS YOUR GM BOMBS
AGAIN! The Italian F Ion-Tun failed last Fall.

England (George Parkanyi): Has A Fin, F's Mid, Naf, Nwy, Ska (5).

France (Jim Whyte): Retreats A Mar-Bur, removes A Bel, has A's Gas, Par,
F Spa(sc). (4).

Germany (Alan Turner): Removes A Bre, has A's Mun, Ruh, Ber, F Den.

Italy (Doug Hayward): Builds F Rom, has A's Pie, Ser, Boh, Tyo, F's Wes,
Mar, Ion, Aeg (9).

Russia (Harry Drews): Builds A War, has A's Ber, Pru, Con, Smy, StP, Mos,
Sil, Rum, F's Swe, Bal, Bla (12).

No press here this time...I've been promised a truckload for next season!

1977-AA, Winter 1903: ANOTHER SLOW SEASON...WELL ACTUALLY QUITE A BIT IS
HAPPENING CONSIDERING IT'S WINTER, EH?

Austria (George Parkanyi): NOR: Anonymous neutral removes A Sil, has A's
Tri, Gal, F Alb (3).

England (Cal White): Builds F Edi, A Lon, A Lvp, has A Den, F's Swe, StP(nc),
Nwy (7).

France (Cecil Nurse): Retreats A Mun-Boh, builds F Bre, has A's Bel, Bur,
Mar, Spa, F Tun (7).

Germany (Doug Hayward): Removes F Bal, has A's Ruh, Mun, Kie, F Hol (4).

Italy (Brad Warner): Removes F Lyo, A Pie, has A Ven, F Tyr (2).

Russia (Gary Mills): Retreats F Swe OTB, builds A War, has A's Mos, Ukr (3).

Turkey (Ed Innes): Builds A Con, F Smy; has A's Rum, Sev, Ser, F's Bla, Aeg,
Tun (8).

Spring deadlines for both the above games is July 15, 1977. No standby call
for George since he's contacted me this evening, climbing the walls because
he missed the deadline. The hex of Austria continues.

"Hexane" players: our Boardman number is 1977-AH. Of the first eight numbers
assigned in Canada this year, three are resident here. I'm not trying to

hog them, really---overall assignments must be 'way down over this time last year when we had thirty-odd (?) by year end. How come? I haven't noted interest in Diplomacy starting to flag: quite the reverse.

That was intended to fill up the last page; AA begs your reconsideration:

Rome-Con.: "I hope you realize this means war."

Serbia: "Excuse me, General? What are your feelings on the Serbian crisis?"

"It was very well done."

"Huh? But---but don't you resent the Turkish infidelity?"

"Infidelity? Pragmatism, my dear boy, pragmatism."

"But don't you feel they could have been pragmatic somewhere else?"

"We've been pragmatic everywhere."

"Oh, you're Turkish?"

"Yes, of course. Aren't you?"

"No, I'm a Canadian. See my flag?"

"Oh, is that a beaver track?"

"Ahem!!! What is your official reason for moving on Serbia?"

"Well, there was all this indecent Austrian dickering around in B-H that was quite, quite unacceptable."

"And what about the Italians?"

"The same reason. The name Naples has indecent connotations and by bringing it under our jurisdiction we plan to change the name. We have similar policy guidelines re; Tunis and Brest. Or do I mean Venice?"

"Don't you feel that the name Turkey has unpleasant connotations?"

"What do you think Canada means in Turkish?"

Sarajevo: The Nashnull Liberation Front and Back of Bosnia and the Other Place has informed the Austrian government of their intention to secede from the Empire. The terse message was as follows:

To His Majesty yer Emperor, the Prime Minestrone of Austria and Hungary, &c., &c.:

May it please your Majesty (ho, ho, ho) and all you other jerks of the Government:

We are sick and fed up with the inordinate number of relief stops being made in the vicinity of Sarajevo by troops of the Austrian Third Army and desire that they cease forth-with.

WHEREAS, the Government has traditionally used Bosnia and the other place as receptacles for the liquid waste of Austrian troops who serve only to clutter the landscape, ruin the crops, rape the cattle, &c., &c.,

WHEREAS, beef prices have taken an utter nose-dive due to military interference in our cattles' affairs,

WE THE UNDERSIGNED do hereby serve notice that, effective immediately, the region formerly known as Bosnia and the Other Place has declared its independence from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and that incursions from Austria, even for comfort, will not be tolerated.

Lazzlo Knypczx

Jiric Donyiszxfzz

George Parkanyi

William Collins, CBE,

drains cleared while you wait

Guernica: Just you wait, President Nurse....

1977-AE GM:(me again)

Winter 1901: BAYONETS ARE SHARPENED, RIFLES ARE AIMED, ARTILLERY IS POSITIONED, FLEETS SET SAIL AS EUROPE PREPARES FOR.....PEACE TALKS (JUST WAIT TILL THEY GET RESTED UP!!)

Da builds:

Austria (Trevor Baillie): A Vie

England (Ted Sheridan): F Lon

France (Brad Warner): F Bre, A Par

Germany (Dan MacLellan): F Kie, A Ber, A Mun

Italy (Curt Gibson): F Nap

Russia (Mike Dominskyj): A Mos, F StP(nc)

Turkey (Mike McManus): A Ank

Isn't this wonderful?! Notice the new, neat, unsmudged, electric type-writer type...it's almost better than Randolph's. Now not only can I take over Randolph's zine with the help of my press writers, but I can improve the technical quality as well. Today 1/10th of FSF...tomorrow all of FSF! (Hmmm...loses something in the analogy. Oh well.)

Mike will be having problems with his games while he's in Germany since he has no fixed address there. You should be able to catch him there at... brace yourself...Hotel Partenkirchner-Hof, Bahnhoff Strasse 15, Garmisch-Partenkirchen 8100, Bayern, West Germany, (gehzundheit!) until about the 15th of July. (With Mike's addresses, I can probably squeeze out Randolph in half the time...) He has requested that I either delay the game until September or find a temporary replacement until he gets back.

The delay is up to you guys. One vote against continues the game.

Meanwhile, I will dig into Randolph's standby list for the replacement, as Mike did not specify who it was that he wanted to replace him. Randolph will pick the standby, since I don't have a copy of his list, but whoever you are, could you please write Mike at the above address to find out about the diplomacy. Better yet, Mike, you write to your replacement first.

There was one short press release for SO2 which I will leave till the adjudication...which means that you will get a second chance to write lots more by then. What's the matter with you guys? How do you expect us to subvert FSF if you give up on the press now? At least be competitive!

Well, I s'pose it's time to return the reigns to Randolph, relinquishing to him his rightful retainership to this rancid rag. (Sorry Randolph, I had to use rancid to continue the alliteration...it was either that or retarded.) Bye for now. (Boy, is he gonna get me for this!)

Oops...almost forgot. Deadline for Spring 1902 is Friday, July 22, 1977

Randy's Kraken returns. It's now rather late Sunday evening. George had some personal problems which delayed receipt of the above until an hour ago, which should not recur more than once, as I do not believe that one's grandfathers can die more than twice. The whole issue may end up being a day late. Horrors! Maybe I'm not that reliable after all...!

Oh yes...the standby. How about Jim Whyte, 55 Gillespie Ave., Toronto, Ont. M6N 2Y5. Note that this is a definite takeover (Jim will play the position, so write him), but only temporary until the end of the summer (so don't make a three-year alliance without getting hold of Mike for agreement).

I ask you...is that disgusting typing really superior to this? Is it even equal? I hope not, since this machine must cost three times your average non-IBM Selectric piece of garbage. It's very difficult to seriously insult this mechanical monster---wait three months when I have to buy one....

This seems like a good place to insert a few COAs and note new people who have come along since #80. The next full address list will be in #90, also probably the first ditto issue.

Mike Dominskyj, all over Europe. He'll write you.

Ronald Kelly, #120-225 Virginia Ave. S.E., Washington, D.C. 20061, U.S.A.

Randy Knowles, 250 Cooper, #11, Ottawa, Ont. K2P 0E4

Dan MacLellan, c/o Expert Tool, 11617-147th St., Edmonton, Alta. T5M 1W3
 Gary Mills, Box 2500, Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 4P3
 Bill Pike, 134 Highland Ave., Montclair, N.J. 07042, U.S.A.
 431-059-435 Capt. F. Roy Thomas, UNTSO/ISMAC, UNDOF/AUSBATT, A1 500
 Vienna, Austria. Roy is also flitting around and seems to have a new
 address every month.



On the way home from Calgary I got bored and had some fun with figures. The rating formula below is the result: my first, and with any luck my last, excursion into this area.

$$(1.1)^x \sum \left[\left\{ 1 - \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^{a+3-y} \right\} \left\{ \frac{G Y_p}{G Y_t} \right\} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^{P-1} \right\} \left\{ \frac{T_{av}}{I_{av}} \right\} \left\{ 1 - \log_{10} \left(1 + \frac{N}{2} \right) \right\} \right]$$

where x is the number of games won, $G Y_p$ is the number of game years played, $G Y_t$ is the total years in the game (this fraction is used for standby positions), T_{av} is the average rating result for all nations for the year the game began, I_{av} is the average result for the nation played (this fraction is used for start-to-finish results), G is the number of games completed in the last three years, Y is the number of years since the game ended, P is the placing at the finish (if the player failed to participate in

the win), and N is the number of draw participants (if the player took part in a draw). In all probability this is both illegible and incomprehensible, but it works and I will explain further in the next issue. (Tough!) Seven pages is my normal weight limit, though, and besides it's getting very late.

Finally, a plug for this weekend's wargames convention (CanCon) right here in Ottawa, at which I'll be running the Diplomacy tournament. I thought the conditions at TorontoCon were virtually ideal for enjoyable games, but there will be at least one major change at the CanCon environment: a ten-minute limit on Spring and Fall negotiations, and nothing before Winter adjustments. This is to permit a game to proceed to at least 1908 within four hours, which is the cutoff point for tournament purposes: the wargamers are interested in Diplomacy but don't want to spend a whole day on it.

Enter Friday or Saturday (not both) from 9:00-10:00 AM at the Public Archives Bldg. on Wellington St. in Ottawa; bring your sets if possible. Games begin as they fill and will go four hours to 1:00-2:00 PM. Eat your lunch and you're free for the rest of the day: nothing to stop you continuing the game unofficially if that's your bag, or look into the wargames, or go out on the town. I hope to see the Ottawa players (I know of at least a dozen with more in the woodwork) out in force, and I know of several coming up from Toronto and beyond, including Harry Drews. The best seven players go on to a single second-round game beginning at 9:00 AM Sunday to determine The Winner: that game will probably be written up in FSF next issue since I'll be right on top of it all the time. Prizes! See you there!

Buoy, 2:30 AM. Good NIGHT!

Randolph